

greatly benefit prospective college students of all ages from across the country.

The Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act will transform the way student loan programs operate by boosting Federal loan rates across the board, including a \$40 billion increase in Pell Grant scholarship programs. It will keep interest rates low and make loan application forms simpler to understand and complete, doing away with the cumbersome paperwork that now makes applying for aid a daunting task.

I have 14 colleges and universities in my district. In many cases, these institutions are the main economic engine for the towns and cities in which they are located. This piece of legislation will benefit all of them as more students can go to college and come to these great towns that provide an economic boost for the surrounding regions.

This legislation will also have a positive impact on our economy's sustainability, as it will save taxpayers \$87 billion over 10 years by switching to the cheaper Direct Loan Program.

I think this piece of legislation is a win-win.

OCCUPIED TERRITORY

(Mr. GOHMERT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GOHMERT. President Obama has indicated before that, basically, Israel needs to not be occupying land that was acquired during war. Yesterday, to the U.N. he said that a big part of the goal is this: a viable, independent Palestinian state with contiguous territory that ends the occupation that began in 1967 and realizes the potential of the Palestinian people. Well, he has also indicated this Nation, the United States, will not be hypocritical any longer around the world.

Terrible news this is for California—all of California, Arizona, Utah, Nevada, most of New Mexico, Colorado, and Wyoming, because it means you're about to be given back to Mexico, territory that we acquired in 1848 as a result of a war.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF MOTIONS TO SUSPEND THE RULES

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 766 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 766

Resolved, That it shall be in order at any time through the legislative day of September 24, 2009, for the Speaker to entertain motions that the house suspend the rules relating to the bill (H.R. 3631) to amend title XVIII to provide for the application of a consistent Medicare part B premium for all Medicare beneficiaries in a budget neutral manner for 2010.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from California is recognized for 1 hour.

Ms. MATSUI. For the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART). All time yielded during the consideration of the rule is for debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. MATSUI. I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to insert extraneous materials into the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

Ms. MATSUI. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this rule provides for consideration of H.R. 3631, the Medicare Premium Fairness Act, under suspension of the rules. It allows this body to consider time-sensitive legislation under an expedited process to shield millions of Medicare beneficiaries from harmful premium increases for the coming year.

Due to the struggles facing our economy today, many seniors will not receive Social Security COLAs this year, even though the Medicare part B premiums will still rise. The Medicare Premium Fairness Act addresses this problem by protecting Medicare beneficiaries from bearing the burden of increased premiums because of an economic downturn largely outside of their control. And it does so without adding to the deficit.

Without today's bill, seniors who are new to the Medicare program will see their monthly premiums jump dramatically. Other part B recipients will shoulder an unfairly large share of cost increases because of the way current law requires part B to be funded. Cash-strapped States will be forced to bear the burden of higher Medicare costs for dual-eligible beneficiaries.

For these reasons, I believe my colleagues will agree with me that inaction is not an option here today. As our country begins to climb back out of one of the largest recessions in recent memory, now is the worst possible moment to saddle our seniors with increased premiums.

Many respected outside groups agree with this statement and have endorsed the Medicare Premium Fairness Act. AARP, the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare, the Center for Medicare Advocacy, and the Alliance for Retired Americans have all endorsed H.R. 3631.

These groups understand that we're living through a time when rising costs have threatened the health care people in this country have and deserve. This is true for Medicare beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries alike.

For this reason, making health care more affordable for all Americans is our top priority. And protecting and strengthening Medicare is an essential

part of this vision. I urge my colleagues to support today's rule and the underlying bill so that beneficiaries can continue to see their doctors; so that they can continue to afford their prescriptions, especially medications; so that they can continue to have money to spend and cycle back through our recovering economy.

By acting quickly and decisively on today's bill, we underscore our commitment to preserve Medicare for millions of people who have earned the security it represents and who count on the stability and the dignity it provides. In doing so, we will keep our collective promise to stand with America's seniors as they age and to ensure they have the health care they need to live long and fruitful lives.

We must never forget that Medicare is an essential part of our country's social contract. It guarantees that America's seniors will not be forced to fend for themselves when the economy momentarily turns sour or when they get sick or as they age. This is the living legacy of the Medicare program, and it is a legacy we build upon today.

But we do not have much time to act, Mr. Speaker. We must pass this legislation before October 1. This is so that the Social Security Administration can program updated premiums into a system in time to ensure that Medicare premium increases do not hit seniors in their pocketbooks and in their doctors' offices. Speed and bipartisan cooperation are of essence if we are to avoid this problem.

The suspension authority this rule provides will allow the House to move quickly and decisively to move this fix over to the Senate. The sooner we have this bill on the President's desk, the better off millions of Medicare beneficiaries will be. I urge my colleagues to recognize that passing this bill quickly is in the best interest of our constituents, of the Medicare program, and of our country.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. I'd like to thank my friend, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MATSUI) for the time, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

House Resolution 766 provides that it will be in order at any time on the legislative day of today to consider H.R. 3631, the Medicare Premium Fairness Act. That underlying legislation would freeze the Medicare part B premium for 2010 at the 2009 rate for beneficiaries who, under current law, will see a premium increase, along with an expected freeze in the Social Security cost-of-living adjustment, COLA, for 2010 and 2011. Both of those combined would leave seniors with less income next year if Congress does not act. So I support underlying legislation.

Although I support the underlying legislation that is being brought to the floor under this rule, I have reservations with the process the majority is proposing today. And I'm not the only one who has reservations with that process.

In the past, a senior member of the current majority on the Rules Committee referred to this process as “outside the normal parameters of the way the House should conduct its business. It effectively curtails our rights and responsibilities as serious legislators.”

The reason members of the majority previously opposed rules such as this is because they block Members from offering amendments and the minority from offering a motion to recommit. That, as you know, Mr. Speaker, is a very important procedural vehicle. Yet today, the majority considers this process to be completely legitimate.

So it's interesting how they thought it was wrong when they were in the minority, but once in the majority, it's a fine process.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. KLEIN).

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. I thank the gentlelady and also my colleague from Florida. I rise to support this rule and the underlying bill. The seniors in my district in south Florida are grateful to my friend, Congresswoman TITUS; the chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, Mr. RANGEL; and the Health Subcommittee chairman, Mr. STARK, for acting swiftly to address one of the biggest issues facing our seniors as we speak.

□ 1045

Mr. Speaker, for the first time in 35 years, our seniors face a year without the traditional cost-of-living adjustment, or COLA, as we call it, in their Social Security payments because inflation has not increased. Of course, if you try telling our seniors that inflation isn't a concern, the first thing they are going to do is show you their medical bills and prove you wrong, because a fact that our seniors know is fundamentally they have different expenses than a typical family of four because of their medical expenses.

Currently, the cost for seniors who utilize Medicare part B, services like doctor visits or home oxygen equipment, is around \$96 a month. If we do nothing, if we fail to act today, then premiums could skyrocket to almost \$120 a month for the same services.

During these tough economic times, we cannot ask seniors who face staggering losses in the value of their homes and retirement plans and increased medical costs to make additional sacrifices. That is why the Medicare Premium Fairness Act is so important. This bill will ensure that next year's premiums for all Medicare part B beneficiaries will not increase by a dime.

Earlier this week, this body acted to extend unemployment benefits. Florida will be one of the beneficiaries of that. Giving Americans a hand up during these tough economic times was the right thing to do then, and giving a hand up to our Greatest Generation is without question the right thing to do now.

I urge my colleagues to pass this rule and pass the Medicare Premium Fairness Act.

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

The rule before us today allows the House to consider a very important and time-sensitive piece of legislation under suspension of the rules. It will help this body expedite a bill that most of us recognize needs to be passed as quickly as possible. Because there will be no Social Security COLA this year, millions of seniors will see their part B premiums rise with no offsetting bump in Social Security benefits.

Now is not the time to turn our back on people who depend on Medicare for essential health care services. This is particularly true as we continue our drive to make health insurance, including Medicare, more stable, secure, and affordable for everyone in this country. I urge my colleagues to consider the needs of the Medicare-dependent constituents. Vote for the previous question and for the rule, and approve the underlying legislation.

I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, this 15-minute vote on adoption of House Resolution 766 will be followed by a 5-minute vote on motion to suspend the rules on H. Con. Res. 163.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 235, nays 132, not voting 15, as follows:

[Roll No. 735]

YEAS—235

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Adler (NJ)
Altmire
Andrews
Arcuri
Baca
Baldwin
Barrow
Bean
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Bocchieri
Boren
Boswell
Boucher
Boyd
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)

Brown, Corrine
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carney
Carson (IN)
Castor (FL)
Chu
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly (VA)
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Dahlkemper
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)

Davis (IL)
Davis (TN)
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Donnelly (IN)
Driehaus
Edwards (MD)
Edwards (TX)
Ellison
Ellsworth
Engel
Eshoo
Etheridge
Farr
Fattah
Filmer
Foster
Frank (MA)
Fudge
Giffords

Gonzalez
Gordon (TN)
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffith
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hall (NY)
Halvorson
Hare
Harman
Hastings (FL)
Heinrich
Herseth Sandlin
Higgins
Himes
Hinchee
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hodes
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hoyer
Inslee
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee
(TX)
Johnson, E. B.
Kagen
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilpatrick (MI)
Kilroy
Kind
Kirkpatrick (AZ)
Kissell
Klein (FL)
Kosmas
Kratovil
Kucinich
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lipinski
Loebach
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lujan
Lynch
Maffei

Maloney
Markey (CO)
Markey (MA)
Marshall
Massa
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McMahon
McNerney
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Michaud
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Minnick
Mitchell
Mollohan
Moore (WI)
Moran (VA)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy, Patrick
Murtha
Nadler (NY)
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Nye
Oberstar
Obey
Oliver
Ortiz
Pallone
Pascarelli
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Perlmutter
Perriello
Peters
Peterson
Pingree (ME)
Polis (CO)
Pomeroy
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Reyes
Richardson
Rodriguez
Ross
Rothman (NJ)

Roybal-Allard
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Salazar
Sánchez, Linda
T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schauer
Schiff
Schradler
Schwartz
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Serrano
Sestak
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Sires
Skelton
Slaughter
Snyder
Space
Spratt
Stark
Stupak
Sutton
Tanner
Teague
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Welch
Wexler
Wilson (OH)
Woolsey
Wu
Yarmuth

NAYS—182

Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Austria
Bachmann
Bachus
Baird
Bartlett
Barton (TX)
Biggart
Bilbray
Billirakis
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blunt
Boehner
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boozman
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Bright
Broun (GA)
Brown (SC)
Brown-Waite,
Ginny
Buchanan
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Buyer
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Cantor
Cao
Capito
Carter
Cassidy
Castle
Chaffetz
Chandler

Childers
Coble
Coffman (CO)
Cole
Conaway
Crenshaw
Culberson
Davis (KY)
Deal (GA)
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dreier
Duncan
Ehlers
Emerson
Flake
Fleming
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxy
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Granger
Guthrie
Hall (TX)
Harper
Hastings (WA)
Heller
Hensarling
Herger
Hill
Hoekstra
Hunter
Inglis

Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan (OH)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Kline (MN)
Lamborn
Lance
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Lee (NY)
Lewis (CA)
Linder
LoBiondo
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Lungrén, Daniel
E.
Mack
Manzullo
Marchant
McCarthy (CA)
McCauley
McClintock
McCotter
McHenry
McKeon
McMorris
Rodgers
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Moore (KS)

Moran (KS) Rogers (KY) Souder
 Murphy (NY) Rogers (MI) Stearns
 Murphy, Tim Rohrabacher Sullivan
 Myrick Ros-Lehtinen Taylor
 Neugebauer Roskam Terry
 Nunes Royce Thompson (PA)
 Olson Ryan (WI) Thornberry
 Paul Scalise Tiahrt
 Paulsen Schmidt Tiberi
 Pence Schock Turner
 Petri Sensenbrenner Upton
 Pitts Sessions Walden
 Poe (TX) Shadegg Wamp
 Posey Shimkus Westmoreland
 Price (GA) Shuler Whitfield
 Putnam Shuster Wilson (SC)
 Radanovich Simpson Wittman
 Rehberg Smith (NE) Wolf
 Reichert Smith (NJ) Young (AK)
 Roe (TN) Smith (TX) Young (FL)
 Rogers (AL) Smith (WA)

NOT VOTING—15

Barrett (SC) Doyle Lewis (GA)
 Clarke Fallin Platts
 Clay Graves Rooney
 Conyers Israel Speier
 Delahunt Johnson (GA) Towns

□ 1115

Messrs. PETRI, PENCE, CULBERSON and MOORE of Kansas changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

NATIONAL JOB CORPS DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the question on suspending the rules and agreeing to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 163.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 163.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 413, noes 4, not voting 15, as follows:

[Roll No. 736]

AYES—413

Abercrombie Barton (TX) Boozman
 Ackerman Bean Boren
 Aderholt Becerra Boswell
 Adler (NJ) Berkeley Boucher
 Akin Berman Boustany
 Alexander Berry
 Altmire Biggart Brady (PA)
 Andrews Bilbray Brady (TX)
 Arcuri Bilirakis Braley (IA)
 Austria Bishop (GA) Bright
 Baca Bishop (NY) Brown (SC)
 Bachmann Blumenauer Brown, Corrine
 Bachus Blunt Brown-Waite,
 Baird Boccieri Ginny
 Baldwin Boehner Buchanan
 Barrow Bonner Burgess
 Bartlett Bono Mack Burton (IN)

Butterfield Halvorson McHenry
 Buyer Hare McIntyre
 Calvert Harman McKeon
 Camp Harper McMahon
 Campbell Hastings (FL) McMorris
 Cantor Hastings (WA) Rodgers
 Cao Heinrich McNeerney
 Capito Heller Meek (FL)
 Capps Hensarling Meeks (NY)
 Capuano Herger Melancon
 Cardoza Herstein Sandlin Mica
 Carnahan Higgins Michaud
 Carney Hill Miller (FL)
 Carson (IN) Himes Miller (MI)
 Carter Hinchey Miller (NC)
 Cassidy Hinojosa Miller, Gary
 Castle Hirono Miller, George
 Castor (FL) Hodes Minnick
 Chaffetz Hoekstra Mitchell
 Chandler Holden Mollohan
 Childers Holt Moore (KS)
 Chu Honda Moore (WI)
 Clarke Hoyer Moran (KS)
 Clay Hunter Moran (VA)
 Cleaver Inglis Murphy (CT)
 Clyburn Insee Murphy (NY)
 Coble Issa Murphy, Patrick
 Coffman (CO) Jackson (IL) Murphy, Tim
 Cohen Jackson-Lee Murtha
 Cole (TX) Myrick
 Conaway Jenkins Nadler (NY)
 Connolly (VA) Johnson (GA) Napolitano
 Cooper Johnson (IL) Neal (MA)
 Costa Johnson, E. B. Neugebauer
 Costello Johnson, Sam Nunes
 Courtney Jones Nye
 Crenshaw Jordan (OH) Oberstar
 Crowley Kagen Obey
 Cuellar Kanjorski Olson
 Culberson Kaptur Olver
 Cummings Kennedy Ortiz
 Dahlkemper Kildee Pallone
 Davis (AL) Kilpatrick (MI) Pascarell
 Davis (CA) Kilroy Pastor (AZ)
 Davis (IL) Kind Paul
 Davis (KY) King (IA) Paulsen
 Davis (TN) King (NY) Payne
 DeFazio Kingston Pence
 DeGette Kirk Perlmutter
 DeLauro Kirkpatrick (AZ) Perriello
 Dent Kissell Peters
 Diaz-Balart, L. Klein (FL) Peterson
 Diaz-Balart, M. Kline (MN) Petri
 Dicks Kosmas Pingree (ME)
 Dingell Kratovil Pitts
 Doggett Kucinich Platts
 Donnelly (IN) Lamborn Poe (TX)
 Dreier Lance Pollis (CO)
 Driehaus Langevin Pomeroy
 Duncan Larsen (WA) Posey
 Edwards (MD) Latham Price (GA)
 Edwards (TX) LaTourette Price (NC)
 Ehlers Latta Putnam
 Ellison Lee (CA) Quigley
 Ellsworth Lee (NY) Radanovich
 Emerson Levin Rahall
 Engel Lewis (CA) Rangel
 Eshoo Linder Rehberg
 Etheridge Lipinski Reichert
 Farr LoBiondo Reyes
 Fattah Loeb sack Richardson
 Filner Lofgren, Zoe Rodriguez
 Fleming Lowey Roe (TN)
 Forbes Lucas Rogers (AL)
 Fortenberry Luetkemeyer Rogers (KY)
 Foster Luján Rogers (MI)
 Foxx Lummis Rohrabacher
 Frank (MA) Lungren, Daniel Ros-Lehtinen
 Franks (AZ) E. Roskam
 Frelinghuysen Lynch
 Fudge Mack
 Gallegly Maffei
 Garrett (NJ) Maloney
 Gerlach Manzullo
 Giffords Marchant
 Gingrey (GA) Markey (CO)
 Gonzalez Markey (MA)
 Goodlatte Marshall
 Gordon (TN) Massa
 Granger Matheson
 Grayson Matsui
 Green, Al McCarthy (CA)
 Green, Gene McCarthy (NY)
 Griffith McCaul
 Grijalva McClintock
 Guthrie McCollum
 Gutierrez McCotter
 Hall (NY) McDermott
 Hall (TX) McGovern

Scott (GA) Stark
 Scott (VA) Stearns
 Sensenbrenner Stupak
 Serrano Sullivan
 Sessions Sutton
 Sestak Tanner
 Shadegg Taylor
 Shea-Porter Teague
 Sherman Terry
 Shimkus Thompson (CA)
 Shuler Thompson (MS)
 Shuster Thompson (PA)
 Simpson Thornberry
 Sires Tiahrt
 Skelton Tiberi
 Slaughter Tierney
 Smith (NE) Titus
 Smith (NJ) Tonko
 Smith (TX) Tsongas
 Smith (WA) Turner
 Snyder Upton
 Souder Van Hollen
 Space Velázquez
 Spratt Visclosky

NOES—4

Blackburn Deal (GA)
 Broun (GA) Flake

NOT VOTING—15

Barrett (SC) Fallin Lewis (GA)
 Bishop (UT) Gohmert Rooney
 Conyers Graves Schrader
 Delahunt Israel Speier
 Doyle Larson (CT) Towns

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There is 1 minute remaining in this vote.

□ 1123

Mr. ROYCE changed his vote from “no” to “aye.”

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 736, had I been present, I would have voted “yea.”

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, on September 24, 2009, I was called away on personal business. I regret that I was not present for the following votes:

On the passage of H. Res. 766, had I been present, I would have voted “yea.”

On the passage of H. Con. Res. 163, had I been present, I would have voted “yea.”

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. ROONEY. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained due to sickness.

Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall No. 736, and “nay” on rollcall No. 735.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on the motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which